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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

DP 785

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1

COUNTRY USSR (Moscow MD)

DATE DISTR. 27 Aug. 1950

SUBJECT Cargo Glider Practice South of Tula

NO. OF PAGES 1

PLACE ACQUIRED NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF INFO. SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

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 Auth.: MR 10-2
 Date: 16 July 78 By:

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1. Formations of twin-engine aircraft towing cargo gliders were daily observed in good weather heading north and returning without cargo gliders.
2. Each formation consisted of three glider trains. A total of up to 30 glider trains were observed. The formations generally flew one behind the other, at intervals of from one to two minutes, but sometimes all 30 trains flew together in a wide formation. The interval between the plane and the cargo glider was about double the length of the aircraft.

3. Description:

a. Twin-engine aircraft: Radial engine, conspicuously high rudder assembly, comparatively long nose.

b. Cargo glider: Angular fuselage similar to but longer than the Ju-52, two landing gear struts close to fuselage and similar to that of the Ju-52, one tail strut. Its capacity was estimated at 30 men with infantry equipment, not including heavy weapons and special ammunition.

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 Comment:

a. This report confirms that air landing troops practiced in the TULA area up to September 1949. The observation, according to which cargo gliders daily practiced in good weather, again indicates that there was much training activity and that a large unit or a large school was stationed there.

b. The planes towing the cargo gliders were apparently IL-12s. The cargo glider seemed to be of a new type, apparently with a tricycle landing gear, and, according to its size, could probably hold from 20 to 24 persons.

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